Palestine Institute
of
Pacific School of Religion

BRITISH SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN JERUSALEM

# BULLETIN No. 4

## CONTENTS

| | PAGE |
|---|---|
| INTRODUCTION . . . . . | 35 |
| TANTURAH [DORA]: | |
| Historical Notes . . . . . | 35 |
| Archaeological Results . . . . . | 40 |
| EL HARBAJ, 1923: | |
| Preliminary Note . . . . . | 45 |

| ILLUSTRATIONS: | PAGE |
|---|---|
| Pl. I. TANTURAH: Views of the Site . | 37 |
| Pl. II. ,, Sections Cut, 1923 . | 41 |
| Pl. III. ,, Pottery Fragments . | 43 |
| Pl. IV. HARBAJ: Cave Tomb No. 1 and Pottery . . . | 44 |

*Issued by the Council at 2 Hinde Street, London W. 1*
1924

INTRODUCTION.—The Issue of this Bulletin has been delayed by the loss of some manuscript in the post. It contains as its chief feature an account of the history and a preliminary sectional examination of the ancient site of Dora, which lies just north of the village of Tanturah. A new survey of the area has been completed, and a general description of the visible ruins will accompany its publication. Of the various sites now examined by the School in Palestine, this one seems to afford the best prospects as a training ground for the School's students, alike from its healthy situation, its accessibility and its preservation, in addition to its special historical and archaeological interest. The area has accordingly been rented for a number of years (at a very reasonable figure) and so far as funds permit, regular courses of practical instruction in the Methods of Excavation will be given there each Spring by the Director and his colleagues.

We publish also a preliminary note on our work at Tell Harbaj—the probable site of Harosheth—which really occupied most of our time and attention last Spring. Unfortunately the site proved to be dangerous to health; three of our own staff (including the Assistant Director and two students), as well as an alarming number of workmen were down with malaria at various times, and the Director found it necessary to suspend work. This was a great misfortune. The discoveries fulfilled all our anticipations, and the excavations had just attained the level of the previous external soundings. Meanwhile we publish a summary of the archaeolgical results and a detailed account of an important cave-tomb on the adjoining hill slope.

## TANTURAH (DORA). PART I.—HISTORICAL NOTES

With Plate I

In examining the history of the ancient port of Dora we are faced at the outset with a problem which must affect the whole of our survey. Is this site identical with the Dor mentioned in the *Old Testament*? Hitherto, it would seem, most authorities have taken this equation for granted. 'Bethshan, Taanach, Megiddo, Dor. These formed a strategical line of fortresses on the one great avenue across Country, yet that line did not run north but south of Carmel. Megiddo and Taanach backed by Bethshan were not in line with Acre or Haifa but with Dor, the present Tanturah, a few miles to the north of Caesarea. Nothing could be clearer than this. The break across Palestine which Esdraelon affords is a break into Sharon, and not into the Plain of Acre.' Such is the conclusion reached by Sir George Adam Smith (*Hist. Geog.*, pp. 389-390). To us, however, who have had an opportunity of studying closely and repeatedly all the districts mentioned in the above passage, who have, in fact, examined every hill and valley along the S.W. ridge of Esdraelon, and have followed two of the routes that traverse it as far as the sea, there appears to be no physical reason in favour of the conclusion quoted, which seems to be based largely upon the hitherto unchallenged identification of the Biblical Dor with the Classical Dora

at Tantura. On the other hand, the Plain of Esdraelon belongs, in our view, politically, commercially, and geographically, to Galilee and the Plain of Acre. The line of hills that links Gilboa with Carmel constitutes in fact an east and west frontier which divides Palestine into two separate parts, and excavation is already revealing certain cultural differences which distinguished these two areas in early times. Commercially, the Plain of Esdraelon and the lowlands of Galilee provided the only approach to the sea which was possible for the merchants of the Hauran. The main caravan routes diverged at Semakh and passed thence, as they do to-day, either by the Wady Abellin or by the Kishon defile into the Plain of Acre, access from one to other being preserved by the easy passage from Nazareth to Seffurieh and by the ancient chariot road which leads from Sheikh Abreik to Tell El Harbaj.

That this and no other is the correct reading of the situation is confirmed by both Biblical and Egyptian Records. It is from Harosheth, a site somewhere within the Plain of Acre, if not Harbaj itself, that Sisera comes to the assistance of Ta'anach and Megiddo; just as it is the king of northern Kadesh who rallies the cities of Galilee and Esdraelon against Thothmes III and prepares to resist the invader on the line of hills which these two fortresses defended. No such historical situations link Esdraelon with Sharon.

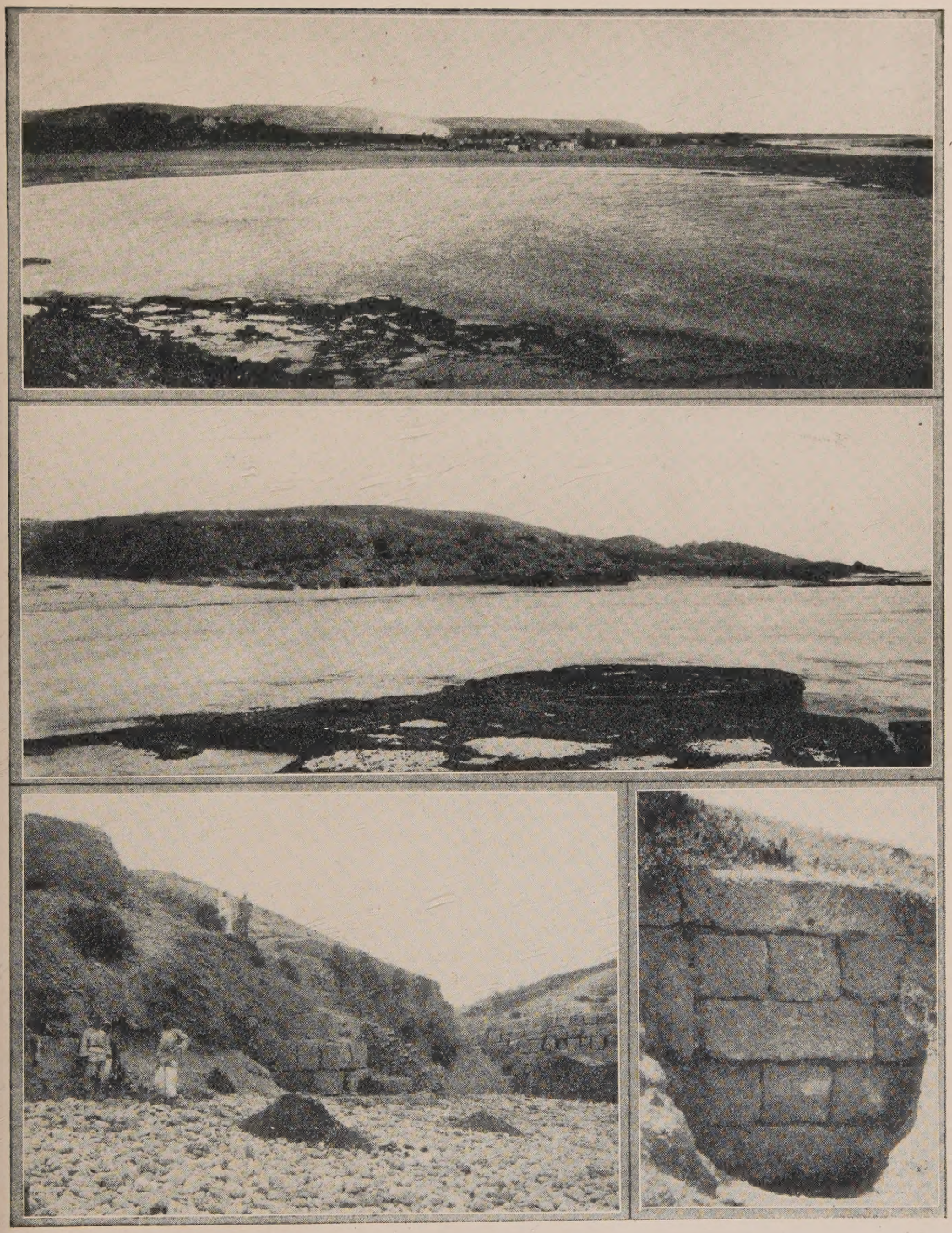
If we turn to consider the position of Dora (Tanturah), we find that it has no place in this picture. Firstly, it lies outside the Carmel-Gilboa frontier; secondly, it is far away from the main Egyptian trade-routes which led by the Wady Arah and the Plain of Dothan into Sharon and Philistia; thirdly, it is a port, and this is the factor which must be emphasised. Apart from Ascalon and Gaza, which belonged to a people who were at once sailors and landsmen, the seaports of Palestine play no part in Biblical history. Neither Joppa nor Accho is heard of in the conquests of Joshua, nor do they join in any warfare either for or against Israel. The obvious explanation of this is that those who inhabited them were interested not in the land but in the sea. In the time of Solomon Accho was in the hands of King Hiram, as probably was Joppa, and this was the natural fate of both. Possibly they were in origin Phoenician colonies. In any event, their chief interest and their best hope of survival lay in a benevolent neutrality, and as they lay far off from the main centres of friction the task of preserving it was probably not a heavy one. But if this were true of Joppa and Accho, it is probable that it was true of Dora also, and we shall have to take this into account in our examination of the Biblical references.

(1). The first Biblical reference to Dor is in Joshua 11, 2, in connection with the peoples assembled by Jabin of Hazor against Israel. He sent to 'the kings of Shimron and Achshaph and to the kings who were on the north in the hill country, and in the Arabah south of Cinneroth and in the Shephelah and in Naphoth-Dor on the west.' The list of kings smitten by Joshua in this campaign (Joshua 12) includes the following:—Madon, Hazor, Shimron-meron, Achshaph, Taanach, Megiddo, Kedesh (near Taanach), Jokneam in Carmel, Dor in Naphoth-Dor, Goiim in Gilgal and Tirzah.

In both passages we see that Dor is carefully distinguished by the additional title Naphoth or Naphath, as if there were another Dor known to the writer and not to be confused with this one. As regards location Naphath-Dor seems to be a town and, perhaps, a region situated in or near the Shephelah of Israel, that is the range of hills between the southern point of Carmel and Gilboa. The order of kings in the second list may be slightly confused, since Kedesh should properly be named between Taanach and Megiddo, but it is at least significant that we find Naphoth-Dor in close company with the group of Esdraelon fortresses.

(2). In Joshua 17, 11-13, we have a list of cities assigned to Manasseh 'in Issachar and in Asher.' This list reads, 'Bethshan, Ibleam, Dor, Endor, Taanach, Megiddo,' and ends with an obscure reference to Naphath and the number three, which it has been suggested with reason is probably a marginal gloss originally referring to Dor (the third city on the list) and indicating that it is Naphath-Dor which is intended. Here, then, once more we not only find the mysterious Naphath as apparently designating this particular Dor, but we find Dor in a context which limits us severely to the plain of Esdraelon. The reference to Asher certainly seems to imply a coastal situation for the town, but it looks suspiciously like an insertion due to the compiler's ignorance of any Dor in Esdraelon. In the list of towns assigned to Asher (Judges 1, 31 ff.) LXX, actually inserts a Dor between Accho and Zidon. Those who would read Sor = Tyre (with one inferior Greek MS.) must explain, firstly, how the easier reading became transformed into the more difficult, and, secondly, why the Hebrew texts do not read Tyre or some equivalent name in its place. It is noteworthy that LXX agrees with the Hebrew text in assigning a second and distinct Dor to Manasseh, as we shall see below.

(3). In Judges 1, 27 and 28 we are told that Manasseh failed to dispossess Bethshan, Taanach,



TANTURAH (DORA): VIEWS OF THE SITE AND WALLS

1. Modern Village and Port, as seen from the ancient site to the N.
2. El Burj, the site of Dora, showing Cut II, viewed from N.W.
3. Sea Wall and Gate (Hellenistic Period).
4. Detail of 'Tyrian' masonry.

Dor, Ibleam and Megiddo. Here, once more we find Dor associated with Bethshan, Ibleam, Taanach and Megiddo, three of them cities of Esdraelon and the fourth in the valley of Jezreel. What is the significance of this group of stubbornly defended towns ? A glance at the map should leave us in no doubt of the answer. All of these cities but Bethshan were strategic fortresses posted on the main roads which crossed the Gilboa-Carmel frontier from north to south, and Bethshan itself performed the equally important duty of guarding the vulnerable eastern flank of the Plain. The chief passes across the Shephelah of Israel were three in number. The easternmost ran from Jenin by the Ascent of Gur ; about a mile up the pass Ibleam (Belameh) guarded the junction of the roads to Samaria and into Sharon. The next in order westwards was the famous Wadi Arah, defended by Megiddo (Tell Mutassellim); but between these the hills fall away into valleys which necessitated the presence of an intermediate fortress at Taanach (Tell Taanuk). Still further west another, but somewhat rougher, route enters the hills under the steep slopes of Tell Abu Shusheh* and finally the old Acre-Subbarin-Ludd road diverges from Wadi Milh (itself an easy pass to the sea) at the very gates of Jokneam of Carmel (Tell Keinun). In every case, it will be observed, the fortress is placed at the *northern* mouth of the pass : and while this chain of towns held out the frontier was secure. It is in this context and amongst these towns that we repeatedly find Dor or Naphath-Dor. Surely it can be no mere coincidence that the dominating site of Abu-Shusheh, the ancient name of which is otherwise unknown, fulfils all the conditions indicated for the site of Dor. But these considerations do not stand alone. The position of the coastal Dor is due not to the configuration of the hills behind it, but to the simple fact that the rocks at this point are perfectly adapted to form a harbour. In any other coast but that of Palestine this reason would probably never be considered, but we are dealing here with a seaboard which is practically harbourless. In the long stretch from El Arish to Acre there are only two points suited by nature to form a port : one of them is Tanturah, the other is Athlit. Of these Tanturah is certainly the superior, for the rocky islets which lie just off the shore form, with the promontory on which the old town stood, an admirably protected haven for the small shallow-draught vessels of those days.

It is true that the hills of the Shephelah behind Tanturah open out below Zimmarin to allow an easy route from the coastal plain to Jokneam or Abu-Shusheh. But the importance of such a route for Tanturah must have been commercial, for the city lay far too distant from the mouth of this pass to have been strategically useful in barring it in any direction. Anyone, in fact, who visits the site will notice at once its remarkable aloofness. Separated even from the main coast road by the ridge of rocks which at this point runs parallel to the sea, and at a distance of only half a mile, it displays no interest in the traffic which passes just out of sight on its way to Haifa or the Plain of Sharon, and its inhabitants to-day admit that they have practically no dealings with the colonists of Zimmarin, although their fields must in most cases be in contact, and the latter is the local administrative centre. That there should have been any political connection between this denizen of the sea and the inland fortresses beyond the foothills of Carmel is surely inconceivable, and the little we know of the coastal conditions in early times serves only to confirm us in this view. We have seen that in Solomon's time Acre and possibly Jaffa were in the hands of Hiram, and later history will show us that Dora itself was normally a possession of Phoenicia. It is scarcely likely then that Solomon either possessed or desired to possess a spot so remote for him, and so desirable for Hiram, as Tanturah, and when we read (I. Kings 4, 11) that one of his victualling officers had charge of all the district of Naphath Dor we shall have no hesitation in assigning this name to the Naphath Dor of Esdraelon and its territory to the plateau of Belad Er Ruhah which lies immediately above Tell Abu Shusheh. It is also noteworthy that if 'Naphath' is to be understood as meaning 'Heights,' the usual *Old Testament* translation, these heights or rolling hills cannot refer in any case to Carmel, the name of which was far too familiar to the Israelites ; it must, therefore, designate the whole or a part of the Israelite Shephelah, and this would be an appropriate designation while agreeing with our present hypothesis.

To sum up, the combined evidence of the Biblical records and of historical and geographical considerations makes it necessary for us to dissociate the Dor of Joshua and Judges from the Dora of later times. Naphath Dor is as distinct from Dora as Hammoth Dor or En-Dor from either. It must have been a frontier fortress of Esdraelon which fell early into decay though the name of its territory survived at least into the ninth century. By this time, however, the maritime city of Dora was becoming famous for reasons with which we shall have to deal shortly, while the older and, no doubt, once greater town at Abu-Shusheh became only a memory and fruitful source of confusion for the scribe.

*This was one of the routes employed by Lord Allenby for his cavalry. Napoleon made use of the Ludd-Acre road. The Wadi Arah has always been the chief line of communication.

Having considered the Biblical references we may confine ourselves henceforward to the maritime town which now bears the name of Tanturah. Its history, thus restricted in date, begins for us with the story of Wenamon, the luckless Egyptian traveller who sailed from the Delta to Byblos about 1100 B.C., and put in at Dora during the course of his voyage. The city at that time was in the hands of a people called the Zakkara, and from subsequent notices we gather that they were of an active seafaring disposition, possessed a fleet of their own, and were strong enough to demand the surrender of a refugee from the prince of Byblos himself. Thus at the very outset we find, as we should expect, that the story of Dora is a story of the sea. These Zakkara were themselves invaders from the isles of Greece or beyond. They came with the Philistines in the great invasion of 1190 B.C., when a combined force of foreign sea-rovers, foiled in their attack on Egypt, settled along the Palestine coast from Carmel to Gaza. How long the Zakkara remained strictly independent we have no means of knowing. But ports are not like inland fortresses. The common interests of commerce, the common profits and perils of the sea, forge imperceptibly between them a bond at once more close and less obnoxious than that of undisguised vassaldom and the burden of land taxation. With Tyre predominant along the coast, it is scarcely likely that Dora long retained an unchecked liberty of action ; but if Tyre became the master it remained always the market, and in any event an alliance of some kind was essential for self-protection.

There follows a long gap in the city's history but when we pick up the threads of it in the fourth century B.C., we find the same relations prevailing. The Eshmunazar inscription has been variously ascribed to this and the succeeding century, but the testimony of the Periplus of Scylax written as internal evidence about 350 B.C. shows that already at that date the town belonged to the Sidonians, and must refer the inscription to the period of Persian domination. Eshmunazar, second king of that name in Sidon, states : ' Furthermore, the Lord of Kings gave to us Dor and Joppa, the glorious lands of Dagon which are in the field of Sharon.' No mention is made of Acre but as Scylax calls both it and Ascalon cities of the Tyrians, while he assigns Dor and an unknown Aradus (? Haifa) to Sidon, it is clear that the Persian monarch distributed the Palestine harbours impartially amongst the Phoenicians. Maybe that in so doing he was merely confirming them in possession of towns which they had already acquired or founded.

Once more there is an interval of silence, but when we reach the period of the Seleucid wars Dora appears once more. In 219/18 B.C. it was in the hands of Nicolaus, the lieutenant of Ptolemy IV, and triumphantly defied the assaults of Antiochus III who conducted an abortive siege till bad weather made further operations impossible. It is interesting to notice that although Antiochus had just captured the naval arsenals of Acre which included 40 vessels, half of which were decked ships of war, he was even thus unable to prevent Nicolaus from provisioning the beleaguered city from the sea. We gain from this failure on the part of a determined and by no means mediocre commander the real difficulty which the ancients experienced in the reduction of maritime cities. It was in fact a task which no general would have attempted without the help of a powerful fleet.

The next known incident in the city's history illustrates the same lesson. In 137/8 B.C. Trypho the usurper fled to Dor and was closely besieged there by Antiochus Sidetes (VII). Though a large force encompassed the city by land and a fleet joined in the attack from the sea, he had no difficulty at the last in making his escape by water ; and the siege, fortunately for Dora, was raised when the news became known.

Thirty years later (104 B.C.), and for how long before this we do not know, the town was in the hands of one Zoilus, who made himself tyrant of Dora and Strato's Tower (the later Caesarea). Zoilus was obviously a prince of some importance for he had no hesitation in assisting Acre (Ptolemais) in its fight with Alexander Jannaeus. In the end he lost Strato's Tower, but whether Dora shared its fate is doubtful for it is not included by Josephus in his list of Phoenician cities held by Alexander at the close of his career. Possibly, however, it was wholly or partially destroyed by the conqueror, for when Pompey in 63 B.C. restored certain captured or demolished cities of Palestine to their old inhabitants, Dor appears in the catalogue with Gaza, Joppa, and Strato's Tower. It was incorporated henceforth in the Roman province of Syria and its ' autonomous ' coins are dated from this year. From 36 B.C. till Antony's defeat at Actium in 31 B.C., this city may have been nominally in the hands of Cleopatra, but on the arrival of Augustus in the East it reverted to Syria, and geographers of the first century, A.D. describe it without comment as Phoenician. The creation by Herod of a great artificial harbour at Caesarea might have been expected to reduce the small neighbouring port to insignificance, and the evidence of Pliny (*c.* 70 A.D.) who describes it as a mere memory, and of Strabo (*c.* 25 A.D.), who omits all

mention of it, certainly appears to confirm the supposition. Yet from Antoninus Pius (64 A.D.) to Elagabalus (222 A.D.) the city was of sufficient size and importance to issue its own autonomous coinage, while in 66 A.D. it was used by Cestius as a convenient prison for his Jewish hostages and can, therefore, hardly have been altogether in the state of decay which Pliny and Strabo both suggest. Until more archaeological evidence is available this puzzling contradiction must remain unsolved, but we may suspect that, for all its fair show, Dora was gradually dwindling to the status of a hamlet. Certainly by the time of Jerome (*c.* 370 A.D.) it had fallen temporarily into ruins, though it recovered sufficiently by the fifth century to have a bishop of its own and does not seem to have suffered final destruction until the Arabs swept away the last vestiges of Byzantine civilisation. It is typical of the history of this town that even at the close of its life it is still described by Stephanus Byzantinus (sixth century A.D.) as a 'City of Phoenicia.' This was its inevitable fate, a fate dictated by the nature of the Syrian coast and the physical configuration of its hinterland. The fortunes of Dora lay upon the sea.

## TANTURAH. Part II.—Archaeological Results

With Plates II, III

The two sections (see Pl. II, Figs. 1 and 2), which were cut in the north and south slopes of the city mound respectively cannot, of course, be expected to give us exhaustive information as to the history of the town. Especially is this true where purely negative evidence is concerned and our conclusions must, therefore, for the moment remain general and to that extent indefinite.

Nevertheless the broad line of our city's career can be described with some attempt at precision and will be found to accord well with what we have gleaned briefly from our historical survey.

The site was inhabited in the fourteenth century B.C. (towards the close of the late Bronze Age) and its culture at this date was similar to that of the other Canaanite cities which have so far been examined. It is typified in the first instance by the presence of the now familiar 'wish-bone handle' and 'base ring' Cypriot wares and the black slip vases with red parallel brush strokes which are contemporary with them both in Cyprus and Palestine. The primitive comb-faced pottery which was found at Ascalon in this context re-appears at Dora and may be ascribed to the native inhabitants. We can no longer place this type exclusively in the middle or Early Bronze Ages.

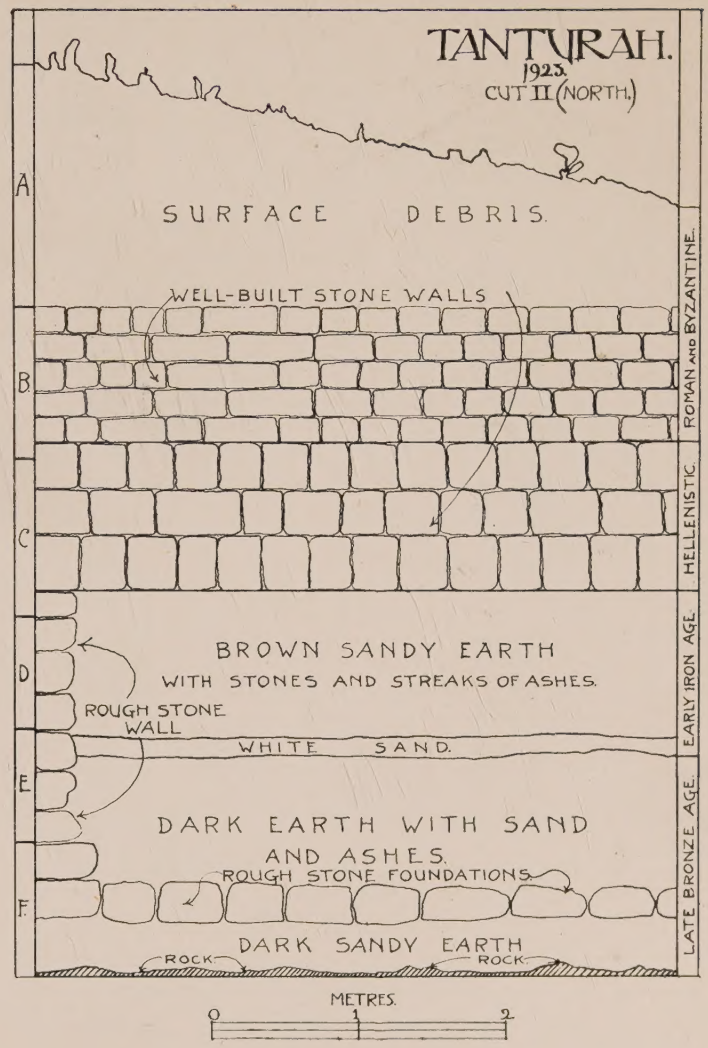
At the other end of the scale we find the Cypriotic pilgrim bottles which seem to have become popular at Ascalon after the Philistine invasion. Perhaps it is an accident that they have not been yet found at Dora at this later period. The clay of these Bronze Age vases is as usual of the local red or buff varieties; the baking is indifferent and the sections show quantities of gritty particles. Such painted fragments as we have discovered show a simple monochrome ornament of one or several parallel bands in black, brown or red on the natural surface of the vase. The curious greenish clay observed at Ascalon and elsewhere occurs at Dora also and must be referred to some special Palestinian locality as it appears to be a native product and not an import. One or two pieces of painted ware exhibit an unusual orange tint with a semi-lustrous appearance: these show a distinct resemblance to some of the Late Bronze Cypriot pots and may, perhaps, have come from overseas. A few fragments of native manufacture were covered all over with an opaque white wash, a form of decoration perhaps intended to receive a painted pattern, though so far no trace of such have been found on any of them. (Dr. Fisher found a fine painted vase at Beisan which seems to belong to this class.)

The vase-shapes of this period displayed no uncommon features. We find the usual chocolate-coloured cooking pots, 'milk jugs' with a single vertical loop handle, and open bowls or saucers the rims of which are either unmoulded or with a raised flange running round the interior. The base usually employed was of the ring type. In the case of one large vessel it was made separately and attached to the pot while wet by means of a number of jagged incisions stabbed all over the point of junction. The lamps were of the pinched-spout type of the Middle Period.

The evidence detailed above is derived from our lowest steps and more particularly from steps F and G of Cut I. (Step G formed the lowest level on the exterior of the mound and disappeared later as the slope of the rock rose from the beach.) The pottery of step E of the

FIG. 1

FIG. 2



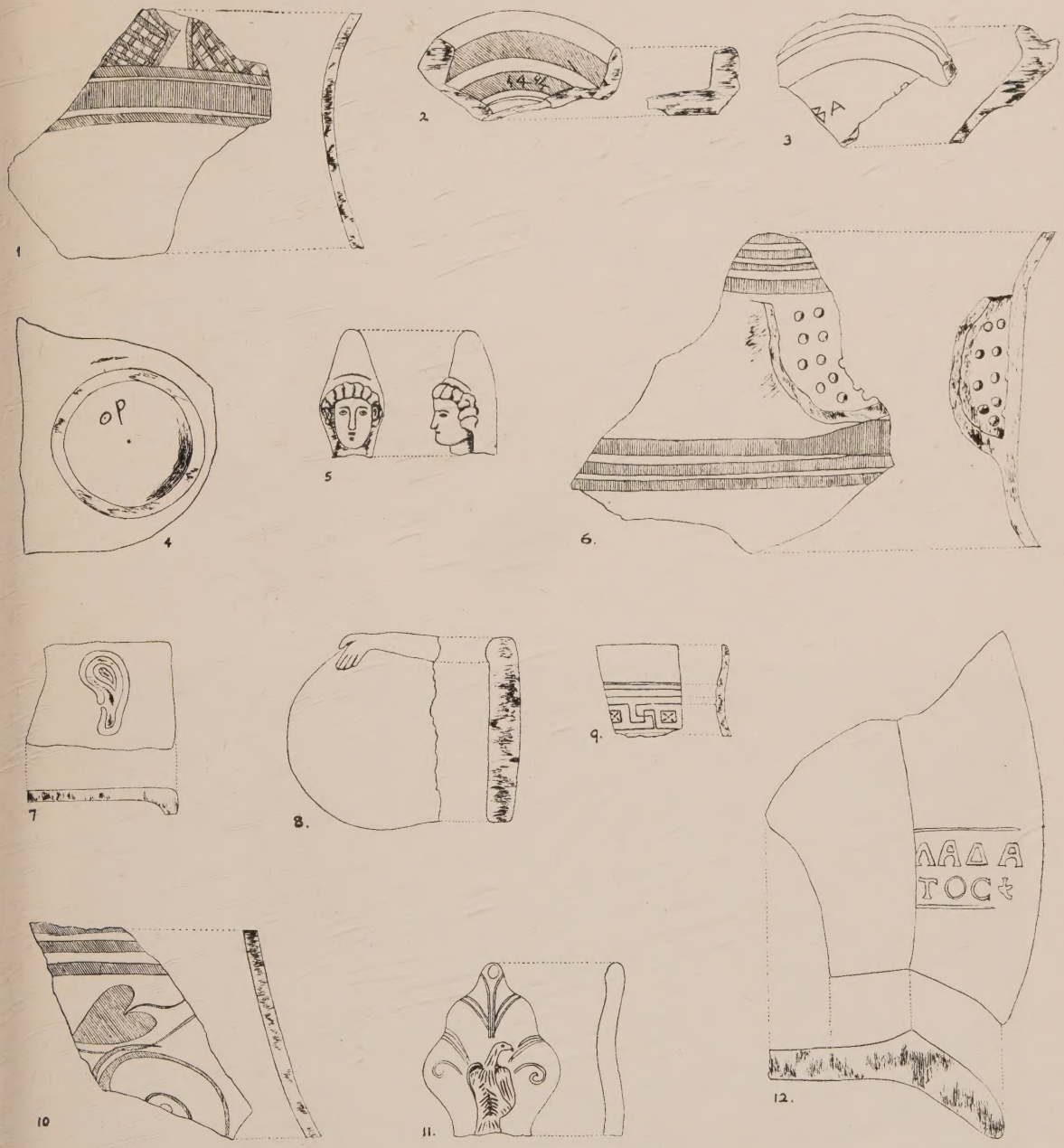

TANTURAH

Figs. 1, 2. Sections cut in El Burj, 1923

same Cut showed a mixture of Bronze and Iron Age wares and cannot, therefore, be relied upon for either period. The reason for this mixture will be easily discovered from our diagram (Fig. 1) which was prepared quite independently of the ceramic evidence. At a point about 20 cm. from the top of the step a layer of ashes was found to underlie the well-built stone (outer) wall of a house. This wall belonged, as the pottery found beside it showed clearly, to the Early Iron Age period of the city's history, the fragments found in the layer of ashes belonged to the same date, while those below still include the wishbone and base ring wares and the old monochrome types of painted ornament. One such painted fragment in E is of doubtful date. It is well-baked grey clay covered on the outside with a brown pigment and decorated on the inside with alternate belts and cross-hatching of the same colour. To the Bronze Age must probably be attributed a grey fragment with herring-bone incisions, since similar pieces were found in an undeniable Bronze Age context at Ascalon. With the entry of the Iron Age, however, we begin to find fragments of pebble-burnished vases displaying the fine over-all polish which is characteristic of the earlier part of this period and (with less certainty) the pointed piriform juglet of local clay, of which no specimens had been found at a lower level. The most characteristic Iron Age vase of all, the amphora with flat sloping shoulder ending in a sharp metallic angle, appeared also for the first time in this step. In step D above it it becomes far the commonest type of pot and would seem to have been made (and broken) in large quantities. Perhaps the most striking difference between the Bronze and Iron Age wares lies in the superior baking of the latter. Fragments of this period can be detected without fail merely by the metallic clink which is emitted when they are rubbed or rapped together. It is true that certain of the commoner vases are still suggestive of the Bronze Age pottery but the vast majority show a marked advance in manufacture. The art of the painter exhibits a similar improvement. Two colours (black and red) are now employed, notably on a vessel furnished with a strainer-spout where cross-hatched lozenges of black are spaced between parallel belts of red and black. (Pl. III, No. 1.) It is important in this connection to notice that so far no fragments of characteristic Philistine pottery have been found at Dora. This may, of course, be accidental but it is certainly significant that the fragment alluded to above while forming part of a vase which further south would be recognised at once as typically Philistine should exhibit a style of decoration which has never so far been found (at this date) within the limits of Philistia. It is certainly very tempting to see in this fact a close connection with the historical advent of the Zakkara. These invaders were probably of the same northern origin as the Philistines who accompanied them and might be expected therefore to make use of the same types of jar. This would be especially true of the vase with the strainer-spout for whatever the liquid was which required this strainer it was clearly introduced by the Philistine confederacy. Beyond the question of form, however, we need not expect to find an absolute identity between the art of the two peoples. The pattern on the Dora vase is as different from the Philistines as are those on the Cypriot wares of this period, yet few would deny the close family resemblance between all three when contrasted with the Bronze Age culture which in each case was annihilated by their arrival.

It is satisfactory to be able to record this discovery of a Zakkara vase—single though it be—for in other respects there is nothing to distinguish the culture of Dora at this date from that of any other Iron Age site in Palestine. The 'pinched spout' lamp continues; the typical amphorae are very numerous; and with these we pass almost imperceptibly into the Hellenistic Age (from 400 B.C.). Dora at this time was, as we have seen, in the hands of the Sidonians and an interesting illustration of the fact is given by the discovery of a fragment of black varnished Greek ware with the name of its Phoenician owner roughly scratched on the base. The inscription appears to read (Pl. III, No. 2) 'Belonging to Yabin,' but it is difficult to be sure how far the sharp point of the instrument slipped in the formation of the letters. The presence of Greeks in the town is similarly shown by an inscribed fragment (Pl. III, No. 3), and the number of 'Rhodian' amphorae found at this level (C and B) seem to tell the same story. Two terra-cotta plaques also discovered in these steps deserve a passing mention. On one (Pl. III, No. 7) is a human ear moulded in low-relief; and on the other (Pl. III, No. 8), which is broken, a human fore-arm is represented attached to, and presumably holding, a rounded object, possibly a tomb-stone. It is possible that both are votive offerings, either to supplicate, or to render thanks for, a cure.

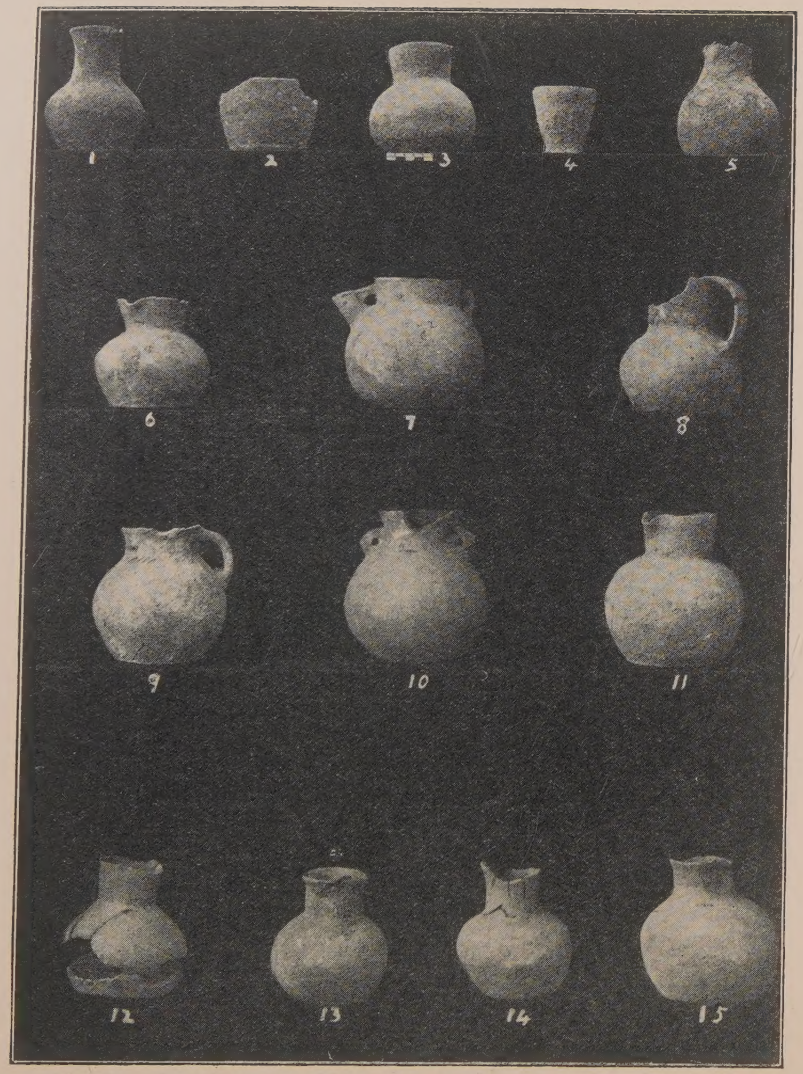
The Hellenistic period is represented largely by black varnished vases with palmettes and other designs stamped mechanically in the wet clay. They may be dated as posterior to 350 B.C. and seem to survive to Roman times. To an uncertain point in this period belongs the fragment of a large red jar-rim stamped in two lines ΛΑΔΑΤΟC (Pl. III, No. 12). The great colonnade



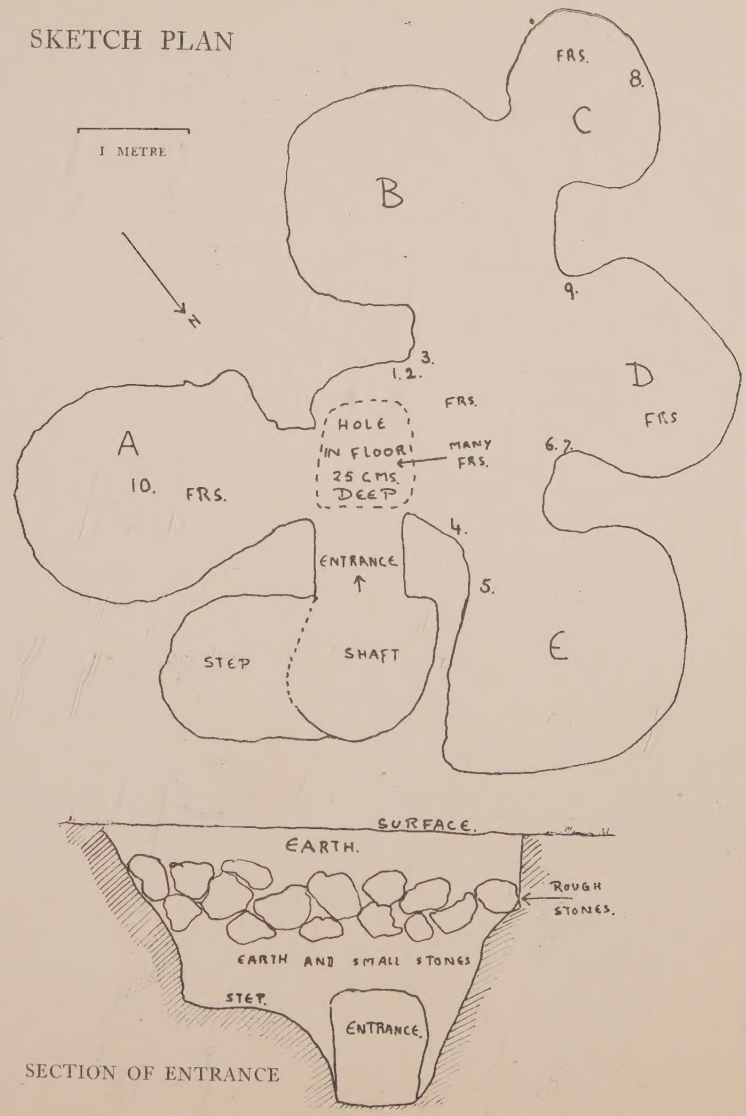

TANTURAH (DORA) 1923: FRAGMENTS OF POTTERY CHIEFLY FROM CUT I.

SCALE ABOUT 2:5

No. 1: *D.*1. No. 2: *II, B.*2. No. 3: *C.*2. No. 4: *B.*2. No. 5: *B.*2. No. 6: *D.*1. No. 7: *I, B.*2. No. 8: *C.*2. No. 9 (*Stamped*, Hellenistic), Surface. No. 10 (*Br. on light creamy clay*): *I, C.*2. No. 11. *Hellenistic Lamp handle* (*red*): Sea-Gate. No. 12. *Propylaea.*




HARBAJ. Tomb-group of early pottery.




HARBAJ. Sketch plan of cave-tomb No. 1.

HARBAJ, 1923. GROUP OF PRIMITIVE POTTERY FROM CAVE-TOMB No. 1, EXCAVATED 1923

on the west front of the city and the well-built stone walls found in Cut II may also be ascribed to Hellenistic times and it may not be rash to conjecture that the former of these owes its construction to the tyrant Zoilus.

Curiously, few traces of the Roman occupation have so far been found, though Byzantine wares are well represented in the surface deposits. It is too early as yet to say why this should be so but it is undoubtedly odd in view of the evidence given by Pliny and Strabo (see Part I, above) and may indicate that there was some foundation for the apparent error into which these writers fell. This, however, is a point which can only be cleared up by further excavation, and speculation at this stage would be useless.

Briefly summarised, the archaeological evidence entirely confirms the historical. The earlier periods of the city's life can only be conjectured but as it is probable that her purple fisheries were of considerable antiquity we may suppose that in the Bronze Age she was already trading with Tyre and Sidon. The arrival (in 1190 B.C.) of newcomers from overseas seems to be corroborated and their connection with the Philistines is certainly suggested by the finds. From the archaeological point of view this is, of course, the most interesting period of all and it is to be hoped that future explorations will release a flood of fresh and important material. Commercially, on the other hand, the Hellenistic era which followed marked clearly the zenith of the town's prosperity. It was then that the great proplyaea with its Ionic columns must have been built and the large and deep deposits of black-varnished wares show how long and thoroughly Dora must have imbibed the influence of Greek civilisation. The liberation of the city by Pompey in 63 B.C. brought it once more into prominence but there again, as we have observed, our information is far from complete and we must be content to wait for new disclosures.

Perhaps the thing which strikes us most in considering the history of this place is the astonishing contrast between its site and its fortunes. For Dora can have little attraction for the sailor and its tiny haven and the half-sheltered coves which lie to the north of it are hardly deserving of the name of harbours. Moreover, it serves no apparent purpose of commerce apart from the purple-fishery which we have already mentioned. Shut off from Esdraelon by some twelve miles of barren and almost uninhabited hills, distant by many more miles from the nearest important ancient city in the Plains either of Acre or of Sharon, separated from Carmel even in the days of the Crusaders by a jungle of thick copses which gave little pleasure to the traveller, its position must have been that of a secluded back-water in the busy life of Canaan. No great highroad passed beneath its gates; and if no ancient conqueror molested its peace, no caravan of merchants increased its profits. It is, indeed, hard to conceive how a town so situated could endure for a century, yet not only did it endure but it flourished, not for one but for many centuries; there was a day when it ranked with Ascalon, Caesarea and Acre and the opulent Greek cities of Transjordania, when it issued its own coins and boasted that it was Holy and Autonomous, that it possessed the rights of sanctuary and had been accorded special privileges on the sea. In that last word lies the clue to the mystery, but even thus the secret is not fully explained. It lies as much in the nature of the Palestine coastline and in the unusual scarcity of sheltered havens along it. Compared with the inhospitality of Ascalon or Gaza the port of Dora is a paradise for small vessels, and it was to this fact that it largely owed its ancient greatness.

# EL HARBAJ

## NOTES ON POTTERY FOUND AT EL HARBAJ, SUMMER, 1923

With Plate IV

While suspending a general account of our further excavations on Tell Harbaj, certain archaeological details are of immediate interest, and are described in the following notes.

I. ? Stone Age. An important group of very early vases was found in Tomb I, of the cemetery which lies on the hill slopes east of the city. This Tomb was entered by a vertical shaft having a step or landing about half-way down it and at the bottom a horizontal doorway giving access to a vestibule and five chambers (marked A-E on the Plan, Pl. IV). The rock throughout was roughly cut, no trace of tool-marks being visible anywhere, and it is possible when we take into account the curious distribution of the vases (as numbered on the Plan), that we have to do here with an early Troglodyte dwelling rather than with a place of burial. Certainly

the vases themselves (Fig. 6) are of a much coarser type than the ledge-handle pots and finely-baked red 'trays' which were found last year in the lowest strata of Tell Harbaj, and among the only traces of settlement on Tell El Kussîs. The clay is in most cases of a soapy yellow type, only Nos. 9 and 10 having received a really thorough baking. All are hand-made and some are carelessly shaped. As regards form, the handless jug with pinched spout (Nos. 1, 3, 6, 11, 12, 13) is so far unique in Palestine and the same can be said of the curious jar (No. 7) which has a spout projecting from the outside of one of its lug-handles. This jar, it may be added, was not only of a finer clay than the rest, but it was also the only vessel possessing a semi-rounded bottom, instead of the usual flat one.

Chamber C. also produced two strangely anomalous fragments of fine yellow ware decorated with thin bands of orange paint. Both clay and paint are semi-lustrous. These fragments would normally be assigned without hesitation to the culture-period, Late Minoan III; but, if this is so, it is at present impossible to explain its presence in such company. It should, however, be said that there are some indications that the cave lay open, or, at any rate, was opened in antiquity, and this may account for the intrusion. We may compare the troglodyte caves of Gezer which were used as burial places for the later inhabitants of the site.

II. Late Bronze. The excavations on the Tell itself produced large quantities of Late Bronze and Early Iron Age fragments, but, unfortunately, the levels were found to have been very much disturbed by ancient buildings. The former period was represented by the familiar bowls with 'wishbone handle,' and flagons having 'ring-bases'; also by fragments of lustrous Mycenean vases and by the crude monochrome pottery which was described in Bulletin No. 2. At this level also occurred the early form of pedestalled goblet resembling a 'fruit-dish,' and the curious vase suggestive of a 'candlestick-saucer,' the purpose of which still remains a mystery. A terra-cotta figurine of the Mother Goddess belongs to this milieu.

III. Early Iron Age. With the Early Iron Age was introduced the vessel with a strainer spout. A typical Philistine fragment of one of these was found with pieces of a Philistine cup amongst the strata of the Bronze Age, but as fragments of the same, or of an exactly similar cup were discovered at a much higher level, their presence at such a depth must be ascribed to disturbance of the strata. Pilgrim bottles with painted concentric circles were another sign of the new era and the late form of the pedestalled goblet seems also to have become popular at this time.

IV. Summary. It will be seen from the above that the archaeological evidence of the site conforms to the usual Palestinian conditions. We appear to have four distinct periods of culture:

(i) Neolithic culture of the Troglodytes of 'Tomb I.'
(ii) Early Bronze Age culture of the lowest stratum of the Tell.
(iii) Late Bronze Age (Level 4 of the Tell).
(iv) Early Iron Age (Levels 3 and 2 of the Tell).

The culture of the Middle Bronze Age as distinguished at Beisan by the white slip wares, and elsewhere in Palestine by black punctured 'Hyksos' vases, bowls with red burnished crosses, red polished wares, etc., is, so far, completely lacking at Harbaj, but it remains to be seen whether this absence is not more apparent than real.

## NOTES AND NEWS

Mr. P. L. O. Guy, Chief Inspector in the Department of Antiquities for Palestine, reports the discovery in Galilee of a number of 'dolmen-tombs,' apparently unopened.

Bulletin No. 5 will contain an account by Mr. P. L. O. Guy, of tombs on the northern slope of Carmel; an illustration of a Graeco-Roman sarcophagus recently acquired by the Department of Antiquities for Palestine, and a report by Dr. Mayer on the discovery of a number of ossuaries in a cave-tomb in the Valley of Hinom, with facsimile copies of the Hebrew graffiti names.

The first Special Publication of the School, being a philological and geographical Index to all the Hittite Geographical Names then published and transcribed, was issued as a *Supplement to* Bulletin, No. 3, 1923. It is available to members at a special price, under the terms of Ordinance 15.

*C. Tinling & Co., Ltd., Typo, Liverpool*